

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1 – 15 (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for producing a titanium dioxide slurry, comprising:

a micronizer that produces an output comprising titanium dioxide and steam;

a condenser that receives the micronizer output and combines the micronizer output with a first titanium oxide dioxide slurry to condense the titanium dioxide and steam mixture and produces a resulting titanium dioxide slurry.

17. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for producing a titanium dioxide slurry, comprising:

a micronizer that produces an output comprising titanium dioxide and steam;

a condenser that receives the micronizer output and combines the micronizer output with a first titanium oxide dioxide slurry to condense the titanium dioxide and steam mixture and produces a resulting titanium dioxide slurry;

a storage tank that receives the resulting titanium dioxide slurry and recycles some of the resulting titanium dioxide slurry to the condenser.

18. (New) An apparatus according to Claim 16, wherein the micronizer produces an output comprises from about 25 percent to about 50 percent titanium dioxide.

19. (New) An apparatus according to Claim 16, wherein the temperature of the micronizer output is at least about 300 °F.

20. (New) An apparatus according to Claim 16, wherein the temperature of the micronizer output is at least about 400 °F.

21. (New) An apparatus according to Claim 16, wherein the temperature of the micronizer output is not more than about 600 °F.

22. (New) An apparatus according to Claim 16, wherein the temperature of the micronizer output is no more than about 500 °F.

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23. (New) An apparatus according to Claim 16, wherein the resulting slurry comprises at least about 40 percent by weight of titanium dioxide.

24. (New) An apparatus according to Claim 17, wherein the temperature of the first titanium dioxide slurry is lower than the temperature of the micronizer output.

25. (New) An apparatus according to Claim 17, wherein the micronizer output and the first titanium dioxide slurry comprise approximately the same percentage by weight of titanium dioxide.